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Cal-Grants

Prior to passage of Senate Bill 1644 in 2000, the number of Cal Grants awarded each year was based on the amount of funding in the state budget. Thus, eligibility requirements and funding levels fluctuated from year to year. With the enactment of SB 1644, every high school senior or community college transfer student under the age of 24 who met basic eligibility requirements was guaranteed a Cal Grant for the first time.

Types of Cal Grant Awards

Most students can qualify for one of three basic Cal Grant Awards – A, B, or C. The award is good for the length of a student's education – up to four years. Awards may be renewed annually, as long as a student continues to demonstrate financial need and maintains satisfactory academic progress.

Cal Grant A awards are made to students who come from low-to-moderate income backgrounds and earn at least a 3.0 GPA. This award covers tuition and fees at public and private colleges.

Cal Grant B awards are made to students who come from very low-income backgrounds and earn at least a 2.0 GPA. First-year students receive an "access grant" of up to $1,551 for books and living expenses, but no tuition assistance. After that, Cal Grant B pays tuition and fees in the same amount as does Cal Grant A.

Cal Grant C awards provide assistance with tuition or fees and books and supplies to vocationally oriented low- and middle-income students. Eligibility is based on financial need.

California Community College (CCC) Transfer Entitlement Program (CCCTEP) awards are made to CCC students who did not receive a Cal Grant within a year of high school graduation, but who meet program eligibility requirements at the time of transfer to a four-year California college. These students can get Cal Grant A or B awards for their last two years of college.

Entitlement and Competitive Cal Grants

News of the Week
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[State Stalls on Badly Needed Prison Reform](#)
[George Will: Building Red America](#)
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Cal Grant Entitlement Program. All graduating high school seniors and CCC transfer students are "entitled" to a taxpayer-funded college education as long as they are under the age of 24, academically eligible, meet all application deadlines, and demonstrate financial need.

Cal Grant Competitive Program. This program was established for students who do not qualify for the entitlement program (e.g., because of their age). Statute authorizes 22,500 competitive awards each year. Priority is given to applicants from disadvantaged financial, educational, and family backgrounds. Competition for these grants is fierce: in the last award cycle, over 135,000 students applied. However, awards went to only one out of six applicants.

Cal Grant Eligibility Requirements

The chart below summarizes Cal Grant eligibility requirements and award amounts. For more details, visit the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) website at www.csac.ca.gov.

CAL GRANT PROGRAMS			
General eligibility requirements	- Be a California resident - Maintain at least half-time enrollment - Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen - Maintain satisfactory academic progress - Meet U.S. Selective Service requirements - NOT be in default on any federal or state educational loan - Attend an eligible California college or university		
Grant Criteria	**Cal Grant A**	**Cal Grant B**	**Cal Grant C**
Eligibility based on	Financial need, income, and asset ceilings and 3.0 GPA	Financial need, income, and asset ceilings and 2.0 GPA	Financial need, income, and asset ceilings, Cal C Supplement form
Family Income Ceiling	$72,300 for a family of four	$38,000 for a family of four	$72,000 for a family of four
Population Served	Recent high school graduates or those who graduated high school the previous year.	Same as Cal Grant A	Vocationally-oriented students from low- and middle-income families
Application Deadline	March 2nd of the year the student plans to attend school in the fall.	Same as Cal Grant A	March 2nd
Award Amount	**Covers Tuition/fees :** CSU $2,520 UC $6,141 Private $8,322* *Not to exceed actual tuition amount	**1st year:** only Access Costs ($1551 for books, etc.) **2nd year:** Access Cost plus tuition (Same as Cal Grant A)	**Covers Tuition/fees:** $2,952 **Training-related costs:** $576 (including books and supplies)
Renewal Process	File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and maintain satisfactory academic progress.		

California Community College Transfer Entitlement Program	
Cal Grant A	**Cal Grant B**

Population Served	2000-01 or later high school graduate with a minimum 2.4 GPA from a California Community College, must transfer to four-year institution the year they receive Cal Grant.
Eligibility Based on	Financial and general eligibility criteria , under 24 years of age
Application deadline	March 2nd and September 2nd

How to apply for a Cal Grant — the Basics

New applicants for the Cal Grant programs are required to complete and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1st, but no later than March 2nd, of the year immediately before the Fall term in which they hope to receive a Cal Grant. The FAFSA also is the application used to apply for federal financial aid programs, including the Federal Pell Grant. The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or obtained from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243. Cal Grant applicants also must submit to the CSAC a grade point average (GPA) verification form or have their GPA verified by a school official. The GPA verification form can be accessed through the Commission's website.

If you would like to contact Senator Runner, please click here: Email - Website

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